



Department of Justice

United States Attorney Leura G. Canary
Middle District of Alabama

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

www.usdoj.gov/usao/alm

CONTACT: Retta Goss
Telephone (334) 223-7280
Fax (334) 223-7560

LUVERNE FELON CONVICTED OF ILLEGAL GUN POSSESSION
AFTER JURY TRIAL

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA – Willie Gene Davis, age 53, of Luverne, Alabama, was convicted on May 13, 2008, of illegally possessing a pistol while a convicted felon, Leura G. Canary, United States Attorney for the Middle District of Alabama, announced today. Davis was found guilty by a federal jury in the United States District Court in Montgomery, Alabama.

Davis was found guilty of possessing a .38 caliber revolver on April 27, 2007, despite having multiple prior felony convictions. Federal law makes it illegal for a convicted felon to possess a firearm. Davis has prior felony convictions in Alabama for Burglary, Escape, and multiple counts of Distribution of a Controlled Substance.

The evidence at trial showed that Davis was a passenger in a car that was pulled over by police in Greenville, Alabama, on April 27, 2007. During the traffic stop, police arrested the driver for DUI and then searched the vehicle. Police located a loaded .38 caliber revolver in the pocket of the jacket Davis was wearing. Davis was on parole at the time of the offense.

The case was investigated and prosecuted as part of the Department of Justice's Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative, which seeks to prevent violent crime through enforcement of the federal firearms laws, such as the law prohibiting convicted felons from possessing firearms. The program is known as Alabama ICE in the Middle District of Alabama. According to United States Attorney Leura G. Canary, "Our goal is to work with local law enforcement to prosecute

felons such as Davis who illegally possess guns and to make our communities safer as a result.”

A sentencing date has not yet been set. Davis faces a mandatory minimum sentence of 15 years in federal prison because he has had at least three previous felony convictions on crimes of violence or drug distribution.

This case was investigated by officers and agents from the Greenville Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Matthew Shepherd.